Byakuya Tsushi
Volume 1 Chapter 1
STORM IN HEAVEN
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宮城とおこ

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ビブロス

葬儀の朝はうっすらくもり。
人はみなうつむき加減だった。
荒れ果てた山の「お墓」から
「トントン」と音が聞こえる。
死んだ者はそれに囚われて行ったというが…。
手を伸ばせばそこにある「恐怖」。
上質なホラー連作集。

宮城とおこ

ビブロス

Okuroyamitake • 龍夜宴 • Illustration

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黄泉路 ✦ よみじ ✦ Yomiji

It is a village nestled within a mountain with only old folks living here
When I quit high school in September I had nothing else to do so I came to stay with my grandmother
GRANDMA,
I'M GOING UP TO THE MOUNTAIN FOR A BIT.
DON'T GO TOO FAR, SHOU...
MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK BEFORE DINNER.
OKAY
And then one day...
Day after day I roamed the mountain aimlessly and waited for each day to end...
Byakuya Zaushi
GREETING

I happened to see a girl out of nowhere
Byakuya Zaushi
—GREETING—

THERE WAS A GIRL IN THE MOUNTAIN?
YEAH... DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THERE WERE NO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS VILLAGE?
SHE WAS WEARING A KIMONO AND I THINK SHE WAS ABOUT MY AGE...
NOT AGAIN
THAT'S JUST SOME STORY
THAT WOULD BE THE FEMALE ONI
AN ONI?
WELL, YOU SEE, AN ONI LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN GIRL, BUT...
LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE MOUNTAIN ONI SEARCHED FOR AND TOOK AWAY ALL THE YOUNG AND PRETTY FEMALE CORPSES IN THE VILLAGE
THAT WAS PROBABLY HOW THE ONI GOT ITS POWER AND KEPT ON REVIVING ITSELF
YES
ARE YOU COMING, MITSU-SAN?
SHOU, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS SO DON'T GO TOO FAR FROM HERE

OTHERWISE, YOU'LL BE TAKEN AWAY BY THE ON!
.....
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE SUBJECTS.
BESIDES IT SEEMS NO ONE'S SERIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING ANYWAY.
WHY ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO QUIT ALREADY WHEN SCHOOL HAS JUST STARTED, SHOU?
My mind would be at peace if I was in the mountain.
And I wouldn't have to worry about anything.
That's what I was thinking, that day.
ouch

GEEZ
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE...
WHERE DID I FALL OFF ? ...OVER THERE?
...WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW...? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GO BACK? DO I REALLY HAVE TO CLIMB UP?
THROB
TSK...
I CUT MY LEG...
WHAT IS THIS? A PIECE OF HAIR ?
IT'S REALLY LONG
FLUSH

THAT WAS THE GIRL I SAW BEFORE...
...OH ...I GUESS ...
I HEARD A LOUD NOISE JUST NOW..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK I ONLY HAVE A CUT ON MY LEG...
When I thought about it later..
YOU'RE BLEEDING WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO MY HOUSE SO THAT I CAN GIVE YOU SOME FIRST AID?

I wondered why I even went with her...
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A DEEP CUT
TH-THANK YOU
ARE YOU FROM THE VILLAGE? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE...
AH. WELL, MY GRANDMOTHER LIVES IN THE VILLAGE
I'M JUST STAYING WITH HER FOR A WHILE...
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A HOUSE LIKE THIS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN, THOUGH...

FWA
IT'S SO QUIET IT'S CREEPY
I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE ONLY HOUSE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN.
Touch!
!?
YOU HAVE VERY NICE LEGS, DON'T YOU?
NERVOUS

THINK ABOUT IT... WHAT IF YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE CORPSES IN YOUR LAST LIFE? PERHAPS YOUR LEGS HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOUR BODY IN THE PAST.
YEAH, I HEARD FROM MY GRANDMA
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ONI WANTED WITH THE BODIES?
DO YOU KNOW
...ABOUT THE STORY OF THE ONI WHO STOLE FEMALE CORPSES FROM THE VILLAGE...?
THE ONI PICKED FROM ITS COLLECTION OF BODIES AND GATHERED THE BEST PARTS...
SO THAT IT COULD CREATE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HUMAN-SHAPED DOLL IN THIS WORLD...
...WELL, IT'S REALLY QUIET HERE. IS EVERY-ONE IN YOUR FAMILY OUT AT THE MOMENT?
AH...

Although I followed this girl here without thinking...
OH...
ARENT YOU TIRED? PLEASE TAKE A GOOD REST.
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU SOME TEA.
HOWEVER, HE HAS BAD LEGS SO HE WON'T COME TO THIS PART OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT A REASON
MY OLDER BROTHER IS HOME.
Not to mention all the schools in the area had been abandoned.
Had she always been living here?
I wondered what she had been doing here
SIGH
MAYBE I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND TOO MUCH..
MAN... I'M SLEEPY
rub rub

A PERSON
HER OLDER BROTHER...?
slowly
GRAB
dude
PUKE

"THAT WOULD BE THE FEMALE ONI."

"WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ONI DID WITH THE CORPSES?"

THAT SORT OF STORY

SINCE I'M NOT A GIRL NO ONE IS GOING TO WANT MY LEGS ANYWAY
SHE SAID I HAD NICE LEGS EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUY
OH YEAH, CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE?
I WANT TO CALL MY GRANDMA SHE'S GOING TO BE WORRIED IF I GO BACK LATE
YOU MUST BE TIRED YOU SEEMED TO BE SLEEPING SOUNDLY
S... SORRY
OH YOU'RE AWAKE
...UNFORTUNATELY WE DON'T HAVE ONE HERE

...YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE A PHONE?
...YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS DEEP IN THIS MOUNTAIN...?
TUCK
WHAT'S THIS...?
.....
OH.....
REALLY.....
I GOT BORED WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE TALKED TO SOMEONE MY AGE.
IT
THE KNOT IS REALLY TIGHT.
...IT WON'T COME LOOSE.

...WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
YOWCH
IT'S TOO BAD YOUR LEG GOT HURT. BUT EVEN SO
GIVEN TIME I'M SURE IT WILL HEAL IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT BY THEN
JOLT
...I'M GOING HOME NOW
IF I DON'T GET GOING SOON I'M REALLY GOING TO BE IN TROUBLE WITH MY GRAND-MA...
WOULD YOU LET ME GO PLEASE?
HUH? WHY?
HEY
I...

AS A HUMAN BEING YOU DON'T FEEL YOU BELONG IN THIS WORLD
SO IT'S BETTER TO BE IN THE MOUNTAIN
WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
IN THAT CASE IT'S OKAY IF YOU NEVER GO BACK
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT ?
PUH
MY LEG...
SOMEONE'S PULLING MY LEG ?
HEY WHY DON'T YOU LET ME FINISH WHAT I WAS TELLING YOU EARLIER?

THE ONI DIDN'T JUST CREATE FEMALE DOLLS...
...I HEARD IT MADE MALE DOLLS AS WELL...
JUST LIKE THE CREATION OF FEMALE CREATURES, THE ONI GATHERED HEADS, TRUNKS, AND ARMS FROM THE DEAD.
WHAT ABOUT THE LEGS ...?
DRAG...
DRAG...
DRAG...
...!?
YES. THE LEGS ...

DIDN'T YOU SAY HE COULDN'T WALK...?
THAT'S RIGHT
DRAG...
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...?
DRAG...
MY BROTHER IS COMING THIS WAY
My brother doesn't have any legs...
He's crawling his way over here.
TUG
AH!!

Pull Pull
Pull
Please wait ...!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO USE MY LEGS TO COMPLETE YOUR LEG-LESS DOLL?
ARE YOU AN ONI?
ARE YOU...
DRAG
PLEASE DON'T GO... WHY MUST YOU TAKE MY LEGS...?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO USE MY LEGS, RIGHT...!?
DRAG...
IT IS TRUE AN ONI ONCE EXISTED IN THIS MOUN-TAIN.
BUT I AM NOT THE ONI

A LONG TIME AGO MY OLDER BROTHER CONTRACTED A COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS AND DIED YOUNG.
THEN HIS BODY WAS TAKEN AWAY BY SOMEONE
BY THE TIME WE FOUND HIS BODY HIS LEGS FROM BELOW THE KNEES WERE GONE...
RUMOR SAID IT WAS THE ONI'S DOING
TO ME, MY OLDER BROTHER WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE
I COULD NOT ALLOW PART OF HIS BODY TO BE TAKEN AWAY
I WANTED TO GET HIS LEGS BACK NO MATTER WHAT.
HOWEVER, THE ONI WAS REBORN INTO ANOTHER DOLL AND DISAPPEARED AMONG THE HUMANS
THE DOLL CONTINUED TO ESCAPE FROM MY SIGHT...
AND THE ONI WAS REBORN WITH A DIFFERENT APPEARANCE OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR THE PAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS.
...BUT FINALLY I FOUND THE DOLL.
I FOUND THE ONE WHO WAS REBORN WITH MY BROTHER'S LEGS

GULP
ME...?
YOU'RE WRONG
I'M NOT A DOLL... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT...!!
NO. I'M RIGHT. YOUR LEGS ONCE BELONGED TO MY BROTHER.
I KNOW BECAUSE THEY'RE FROM SOMEONE I LOVE.
...NO WAY THAT'S NONSENSE...!!
YOU'RE WRONG
This girl is not the oni in the story I heard
But she is no longer human either
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
YOU DON'T GET IT. DO YOU?
slide
...Well, then, please return...

She is the real one of this world.
...My brother's legs.
Her existence is solely based on her brother.
faint

ARE YOU GOING OUT, SHOU?
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU SINCE YOU FELL OFF A MOUNTAIN CLIFF.
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
My legs are still here with me
YEAH
OKAY
When I regained consciousness I was lying by the mountain stream
Ever since I came back home I wondered if that was all just a dream.

"...Your legs seem to be a little too slender for my brother. We will have to wait until you grow up a bit more."
A PIECE OF HAIR —
IT'S LONG
The last thing I heard from that girl...
I don't know what was real and what wasn't anymore
But I know I was already caught
When I become an adult... she will be back for my legs.

Byakuya Zaushi ~ Greeting ~ / The End